

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are presently pending in the above referenced patent application. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 4, 6-8 and 10-26 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention or species. Claims 3, 5 and 9 have been acknowledged by the Examiner to be patentable over the prior art, but are objected to as depending from one or more rejected base claims. Claims 5 and 9 are additionally objected to (as is claim 1) as being informal due to the lack of antecedent basis for one or more limitations/elements recited in these claims. Claim 1 also is rejected (as is claim 2) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102.

Additionally, the Examiner objects to the title of the invention as not being indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

All of the Examiner's objections and rejections are overcome or rendered moot in view of the amendments set forth above and/or the remarks that follow.

Regarding the objection to the title, Applicants have replaced the original title of the application as filed (i.e., INK JET HEAD AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF) with an amended title (i.e., INK JET HEAD WITH PARTIALLY EXPOSED INSIDE ELECTRODE AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF). Whether or not the original title was appropriate, Applicants submit that the amended title is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed and, therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the title of the invention.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1 and 2, all of the limitations of claim 3 (which the Examiner acknowledged to be allowable over the prior art) have been added to claim 1 via amendment. Thus amended claim 1 is allowable over the prior art, as is claim 2 by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

For the record, Applicants note that by making this amendment to claim 1, Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejection of either claim 1 or claim 2, or to the Examiner's reason(s) in support of these rejections. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently file one or more related applications to seek patent protection for claims similar or identical to claim 1 and/or claim 2 as originally filed in connection with the present application, and/or to seek patent protection for other aspects and embodiments of the invention(s) described in the present application.

Regarding the objections to claims 1, 5 and 9, claim 1 has been further amended herein to overcome the Examiner's objection to this claim – that is, claim 1 has been amended to change "said partition wall" (at line 7) to "said partition walls." By making this amendment to claim 1, Applicants not only have overcome the Examiner's objection to claim 1, but also have rendered moot the Examiner's objection to claim 5 and to claim 9. The Examiner had objected to the lack of antecedent basis for "said filling material" in claims 5 and 9, and had suggested that Applicants amend claim 5 to depend from claim 3 in order to overcome this objection. However, antecedent basis for "said filling material" is now provided in amended claim 1, from which claim 5 depends directly and from which claim 9 depends indirectly. Thus, the objections to claims 5 and 9 have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

In sum, in view of the amendments presented herein, claims 1-3, 5 and 9 of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance; thus, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants also respectfully refer the Examiner to paragraph 1 of page 4 of the October 29, 2002 action, in which the Examiner indicated that claim 1 of the present application was generic. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.141, any claims that depend from claim 1, but that were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species are now also in condition for allowance. Therefore, withdrawn claims 4, 6-8 and 10-20 (each of which depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1) are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested as well.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance in advancing the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact him through the information given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

V rsion of amendm nts with markings to indicat additions and deletions

Any additions to the amended subject matter are underlined, and any deletions are bracketed.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An ink jet head deforming a pair of partition walls sandwiching a trench-like chamber to discharge ink from said ink chamber by having an inside electrode formed in the ink chamber at each inner side plane of said pair of partition walls and electrically connected to an external drive circuit, and applying a driving pulse from said external drive circuit to said inside electrodes, comprising:

a substrate having said partition [wall] walls constituted by forming an ink chamber trench from one end plane to another end plane; and

a filling member formed between said pair of partition walls at said another end plane of said ink chamber,

wherein an end plane of said inside electrode located only within said ink chamber trench is exposed at said another end plane, said external drive circuit is electrically connected to said inside electrode at said another end plane, and an ink supply opening to supply ink to said ink chamber is provided at said another end plane side.